

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-2, 4-12 and 17 now stand in the application, new claim 17 having been added. Reconsideration of the application and allowance of all claims are respectfully requested.

Regarding the objections stated in paragraphs 5 and 6 of the Office action, it appears that the examiner has read neither the amended drawings nor the substitute specification filed August 16, 2007, which correct all of the deficiencies noted by the examiner.

All prior art rejections are respectfully traversed.

The distinction pointed out to the examiner in the Amendment filed August 16, 2007, was that the two claimed connection control modules are included in the same node. The examiner has ignored this distinction on the basis that (according to the examiner) the recitation of the two connection control modules being in the same node is only found in the preamble of the claims and therefore is not a positive limitation of the claims. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

The recitation of two connection control modules being in the same switching node is not found in the preamble. What is in fact the case is that claim 1 is directed to a switching node, and the claim recites that the switching node comprises multiple elements. In order to support a rejection of this claim, the examiner must find a reference teaching a switching node having the recited elements. That has not been done here. Accordingly, all of claims 1 and 4-12 patentably distinguish over the applied art. The secondary references do not make up for this deficiency.

New claim 17 has been added simply to clarify that the first and second connection control modules are included in the same switching node, to the extent that the examiner continues to maintain the claim 1 does not already require this.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC  
Telephone: (202) 293-7060  
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

/DJCushing/  
David J. Cushing  
Registration No. 28,703

WASHINGTON OFFICE

**23373**

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: April 1, 2008